

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 101042Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO DEA HQS WASHDC
WHITEHOUSE WASHDC
SECSTATE WASHDC 7401

UNCLAS BANGKOK 19431

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OREP (MANN, JAMES R.)
SUBJ: CODEL MANN VISIT

DEA HQS PASS TO A/BENSINGER, EN/EVANS, IG/FINK, CA/MELOCIK;
WHITE HOUSE PASS TO DR. PETER BOURNE; SECSTATE PASS TO SN/M
MISS FALCO FROM STUOTMAN

1. CONGRESSMAN EVANS ARRIVED BANGKOK JULY 6, RECEIVED GENERAL
NARCOTICS BRIEFING FROM COUNTRY TEAM. ON FRIDAY, JULY 7 MR.
EVANS AND COMMITTEE STAFF RECEIVED DETAILED BRIEFING FROM DEA
CONCERNING CHANGES IN NARCOTICS SITUATION IN S.E. ASIA SINCE
SELECT COMMITTEE'S LAST VISIT 15 MONTHS AGO. CONGRESSMAN EVANS
THEN HAD APPROXIMATELY A TWO HOUR MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER
DRIANGSAK AT WHICH MR. EVANS THANKED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR
EXTREMELY CLOSE COOPERATION BEING GIVEN BY HIS GOVERNMENT IN
NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER REAFFIRMED HIS
COMMITMENT. SAME EVENING CONGRESSMEN EVANS AND MANN HAD A
FOUR HOUR DINNER WITH THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. IN BRIEFINGS BY GENERAL PAO SARASIN AND GENERAL CHAVALIT
AS WELL AS DEA, CONGRESSMAN EVANS WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT
NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN THAILAND SEEM TO BE HAVING
A POSITIVE EFFECT BY DISRUPTING FORMERLY WELL ESTABLISHED
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NARCOTIC SMUGGLING ROUTES AND CAUSING TRAFFICKERS TO ATTEMPT
TO ESTABLISH NEW ROUTES.

3. ON JULY 8, CHAIRMAN MANN, WHO JOINED PARTY ON JULY 7,
AND CONGRESSMAN EVANS TRAVELLED TO CHIANG MAI TO VIEW OPIUM
GROWING AREAS AND CROP SUBSTITUTION AREAS.

4. ON SATURDAY EVENING, JULY 8, 1978, GENERAL PAO SARASIN, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL BOARD GAVE A BRIEFING TO THE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND MEMBERS OF THE U.S. MISSION REGARDING THE SEIZURE OF 37 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE BASE AND THE ARREST OF SIX DEFENDANTS. ATTENDEES INCLUDED THE CODEL GROUP LED BY CONGRESSMAN JAMES R. MANN AND BILLY LEE EVANS; CDA O'DONOHUE, AND DEA REPRESENTATIVES JAMES R. BECKNER, ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR AND ROBERT SUTUMAN, CONCRE SIONAL LEAISON, DEA HQS. THE GROUP VIEWED THE 37 KILOGRAMS OF MORPHINE BASE WHICH WERE SEIZED EARLIER THAT DAY. GENERAL PAO GAVE AN IN DEPTH BRIEFING ABOUT THE INVESTIGATION AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SIX ARRESTEES. THE BRIEFING RECEIVED EXCELLENT PRESS COVERAGE AND THE ATTENDEES WERE TOTALLY IMPRESSED.

5. MEMBERS OF CODEL AS WELL AS STAFF HAVE ADVISED ME THAT THEY ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH ENFORCEMENT TRENDS AND OBVOIUS COOPERATION BETWEEN HOST COUNTRY POLICE AND DEA IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. CODEL WILL VISIT CUSTOMS FACILITIES ON JULY 10 AND WILL DEPART FOR HONG KONG ON JULY 11.
O'DONOHUE

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